

Best Yet Flower/Garden Club picks queen

Chronicle Staff Report

The Best Yet Flower/Garden Club held its monthly meeting on Sunday, April 14, at 4 p.m. with Mrs. Ivey Nelle McDaniel, 3779 Carver Road, hostess and Mrs. Delores Scales, co-hostess.

The meeting opened with devotions conducted by the Chaplain, Mrs. Claudine Cheek.

Mrs. Virginia Stewart, presi-

dent, made a report on the Fourth District Garden Council meeting held last Wednesday. She reported that the Fourth District Garden Council Flower Show will be held June 1, at the Rupert Bell Community Center. The Best Yet Club members were asked to start grooming their pot flowers and get them ready to be entered in the Horticulture division. Niches and table assignments will be made at

the next meeting.

Mrs. Stewart informed the club members that the fifty-fifth annual Convention of the Federation of Garden Clubs of North Carolina will be held August 4-6, at the Holiday Inn North, Winston-Salem, N.C. At the request of the Fourth District Garden Council, the Best Yet Club was asked to select one of its members to represent all clubs that make up the Garden

Council in Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Janet Warren was selected by the Best Yet Club members to be the queen contestant in August. Mrs. Stewart made a final report stating that Mrs. Ann Moyé, chairman of the yearbook and scrapbook, had begun gathering materials and photo pictures that will be needed to make the book: interesting and prizewinning in August.

Board rejects Liberty proposal

Continued from page A1

in vain to get the board to approve the request. She got the support of Republican Aldermen Hugh Wright and Robert Northington, and Democrat Lynne Harpe.

But Alderman Nancy Pleasants, also a Republican, surprised the aldermen favoring the grant and voted to block approval along with Aldermen Larry Womble, Virginia Newell, and Nelson Malloy, all Democrats. That forced Mayor Wood to cast the deciding vote. She voted against the grant.

Pleasants said that as much as she would like to fund what she thought was a worthwhile and much-needed program that she could not vote for it in light of the city's current budget strain. She cited the fact that the city is having to find a way to keep from spending \$913,000 the state has impounded because of the state's own budget shortfall. That money had already been made part of the city's current budget.

When asked if she would have voted for the proposal were the money available, Pleasants said, "I have to sort that out. I just don't know. You'd love to fund anything that you felt the community needed. But we weren't in that situation. So I didn't give that much thought."

LER, a non-profit organization, planned to run a summer and after-school program for children in the Piedmont Circle area.

Some alderman questioned the case with which the LER request

had breezed through a finance committee review last week. Alderman Virginia Newell, who is on that committee, abstained from voting to recommend the LER request at that meeting last week.

A program Newell supports, Best Choice Center, had gone through a tough month-long review by the aldermen before its request for a \$50,000 grant to buy another building was approved in January.

Alderman Burke said then that she hoped the board would be as fair with other community based programs' funding requests that came before them.

Newell set the tone for what would ultimately become a defeat for Burke when she said prior to the vote, "In clear conscience I cannot support it because of the differential treatment of the two proposals."

Newell said she was astounded that very few questions were asked during the finance committee meeting about the program.

"I am astounded that there are people on this board who don't know the difference between a capital budget and an operating budget," Northington shot back Monday night.

Northington said his contention has always been that any proposal that could be effective in impacting on drug problems in the city's neighborhoods deserved a chance to work. "People should remember that I also voted in favor of funding for Best Choice Center," he said.

During an interview Tuesday, Newell said she thought the program was too vague and that may have been the problem some other aldermen may have had with the proposal as well as the possibility that it was a duplication of programs already in the area.

Alderman Malloy clearly had a problem with the manner in which LER proposed to use the grant money. It was Malloy who grilled LER president, Naomi Jones, and program director, George Johnson, about cost breakdowns. He wanted to know in particular why more than 70 percent of the grant would be spent on administrative salaries and benefits instead of on the children the program was to serve.

He questioned why \$18,000 dollars of the budget would go to Johnson, as a full time manager, when he already had a full time job. He is an assistant principal at Mineral Springs Elementary School.

Burke challenged the Mayor's comments that there was no program. "LER did have a proposal that was well prepared and presented," she said. The Northeast Ward Alderman said LER had been working at the grassroots level when it was not popular to be assisting the needy. She said what LER was proposing was new and what the organization was doing when other groups were not taking the time to help children.

Burke said she was not upset or angry about the turn of events. "I

try hard to keep emotional feelings out of issues. But I am concerned that knowing the need was there, some individuals would not take advantage of helping youth and providing them with positive role models like Mr. Johnson," she said.

"Here you had two white males (Northington and Wright) who wanted to help, and two black males (Womble and Malloy) who ought to have understood the importance of supporting such a proposal but didn't," Burke said.

She said Womble, an educator, is always talking about the need to help people in the community, especially in public housing communities, but let the opportunity pass by. She had the same criticism of Malloy who, she said, has a public housing project in his ward.

Jones called what happened at the board meeting a "set up." "I feel they (Newell and Malloy) had gotten together before the meeting and decided what they were going to do," Jones said.

"They could have voted for it for the children's sake. The people involved in running the program would have put much more into it than they ever would have gotten out of it, monetarily. We just wanted to do something for the kids," she said.

Jones said LER would not stop in its effort to do something for the children in that area, even if it meant coming out of their own pockets.

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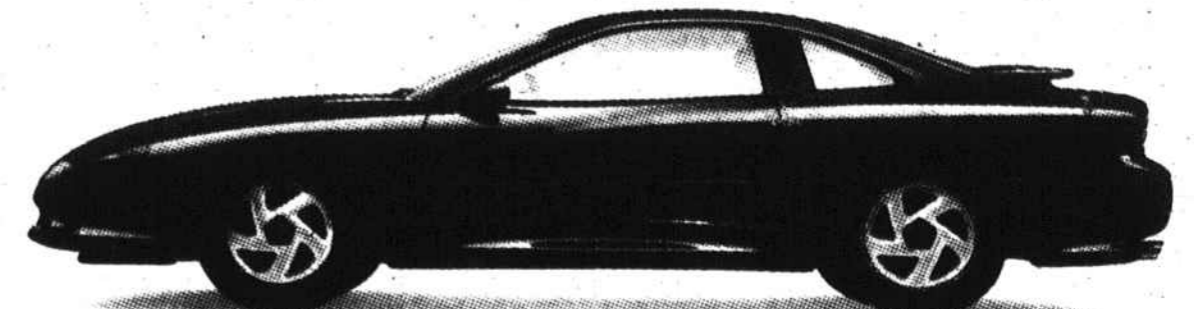
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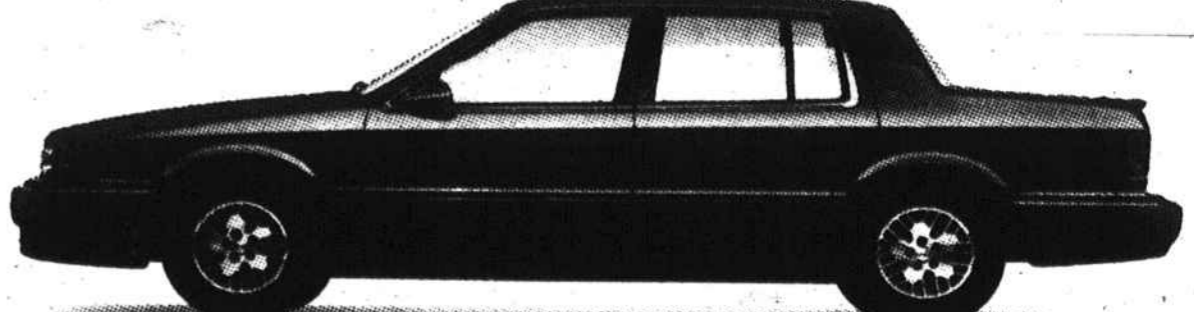
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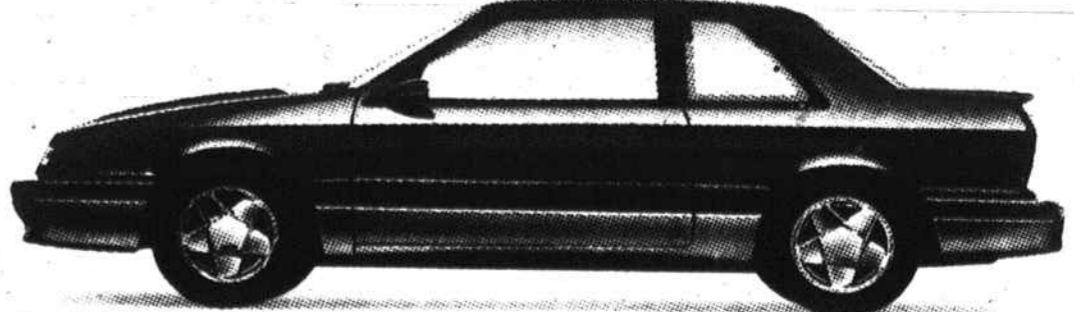
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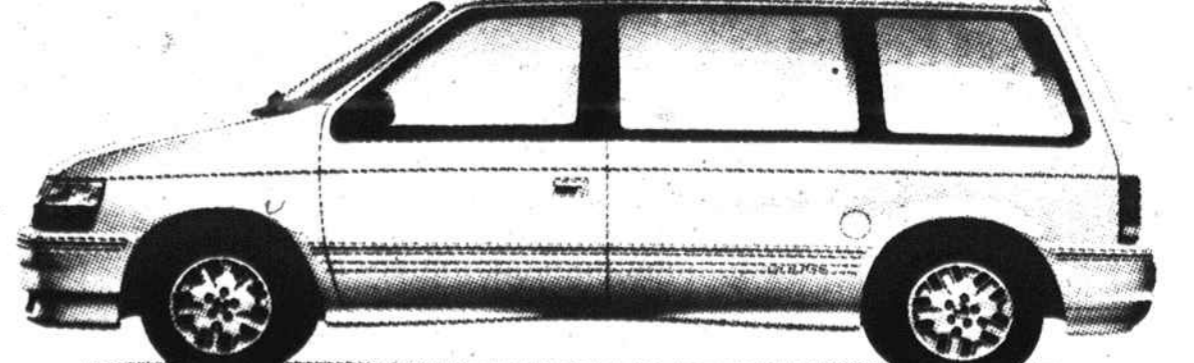
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